

FAITH TEMPLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
602 East Palm Avenue  
Tampa  
Hillsborough County  
Florida

HABS FL-542  
*FL-542*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
100 Alabama St. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
**FAITH TEMPLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**HABS No. FL-542**

**Location:** 602 East Palm Avenue, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida

**Significance:** This building's architectural and historical significance is derived from its contribution to the Tampa Heights National Register Historic District. This district is significant for its importance to Tampa's architectural heritage, as it contains many of the City's best remaining examples of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century domestic and religious buildings. The Tampa Heights neighborhood also has local historical significance based on its association with the rapid growth of Tampa from the turn-of-the-century through the 1920s. The building is also architecturally significant as it represents a fine example of the Gothic Revival style applied to an ecclesiastical building in the Tampa Heights neighborhood.

**Description:** This Gothic Revival religious building is located at the northeast corner of East Palm and North Lamar Avenues. This one-story, brick building, set with an American-bond, sits on a continuous concrete block foundation and has a tall, front gabled roof with stepped parapets and intersecting-gabled transepts in the northern section of the building. The roof is currently covered in composition shingles. Three gabled-dormer vents are present on both slopes of the front-facing gables. The center of the primary (south) facade has a large, Tudor-arched, stained glass window inset with tracery. It is flanked by smaller, similar windows on either side. The western and eastern facades also exhibit Tudor-arched stained glass windows. Along each side of the sanctuary are flat-roofed arcades with open Tudor arches and crenelated parapets. Originally, the church's entrances, reached by poured concrete steps, were located in the south portals of these arcades. Currently, the southern section of the eastern arcade has been enclosed and serves as an interior bathroom. A secondary entrance is present on the western side of the church, facing North Lamar Avenue. All of the doors and windows are treated with Tudor arches. Much of the buildings detailing, including the Tudor arches, parapets, beltcourses, roof coping, and brick pilasters are outlined with concrete. Other exterior ornamentation consists of exposed rafter tails, vents, and an extended water table. Alterations to this building include the enclosure of some windows in brick, and the enclosure of a portion of the eastern arcade. However, the exterior of the church remains in good condition and retains its historic appearance.

The interior has a large sanctuary in the southern section of the building. The southern interior wall is dominated by three large stained glass windows. Wood and glass double-doors with Gothic tracery are present on the east and west sides that lead to the arcades that flank the church. Monitor windows are placed above the doors found on both sides of the building. All of the windows and doors are treated with wood surrounds. The altar is situated in the northeast section of the sanctuary, with a small choir located to the side of the altar in the northeast corner. The floor of the sanctuary and choir are sloped towards the altar. It appears that the northern wall of the sanctuary originally consisted of a sliding wall or curtain that separated the sanctuary from the auditorium and offices in the northern section of the church. Currently a permanent wall is in place. Large, wood, paneled beams frame the original opening of this wall. The cathedral

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ceilings of the church exhibit wood beams that are currently covered in drywall. An original electric metal chandelier and original wooden vents are present in the ceiling.

**History:** Tampa Heights was platted in the 1890s and was completely built out by the mid-1920s. The population of this area was largely Euro-American, middle-class business and professional people. Single-family suburban residences were the most common building type in the neighborhood. However, the area also boasted numerous well constructed churches that served the community. One of these early congregations met in the building that now houses the Faith Temple Missionary Baptist Church. Originally known as the Tampa Heights Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1905 by Reverend Dr. John G. Anderson, the current red brick church dates from 1923. It replaced an earlier wood frame structure built in 1908. The Kendrick and Giddens families, prominent members of the Tampa Heights neighborhood, were members of this congregation (Leonard 1978(A):12). The church was sold to Faith Temple Missionary Baptist Church in 1964, and this congregation remained at this location until recently.

According to Mr. Harold Scott, a long-time member of the Faith Temple Missionary Baptist Church, members of the Greater Bethel Baptist Church left the church in the 1960s and decided to establish a new congregation. At this time, they purchased the church building at 602 East Palm Avenue. This new congregation started with approximately 30-40 members, but eventually grew to several hundred members. Many of the mostly African-American congregants lived within the neighborhood and some drove in from other locations around Tampa. Typical church activities took place at this location including annual fund drives, programs for members, marriages, spiritual counseling, and church conferences. While the building was occupied by Faith Temple Missionary Baptist Church, the members made numerous improvements to the structure (Mr. Scott made the cross that was located in the sanctuary), and the building next door at 2005 North Lamar Avenue was acquired, which served as the day nursery.

**Sources:**

Leonard, Marston C.

- 1978(A) Historic Overview of Tampa Heights: A Reference Guide Constructed for the Ybor Collection – Hillsborough Community College. Unpublished manuscript on file, Special Collections, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.
- 1978(B) Tampa Heights: Tampa's First Residential Suburb. *The Sunland Tribune* 4(1):6-10. Journal of the Tampa Historical Society, Tampa, Florida.

R.L. Polk & Co.

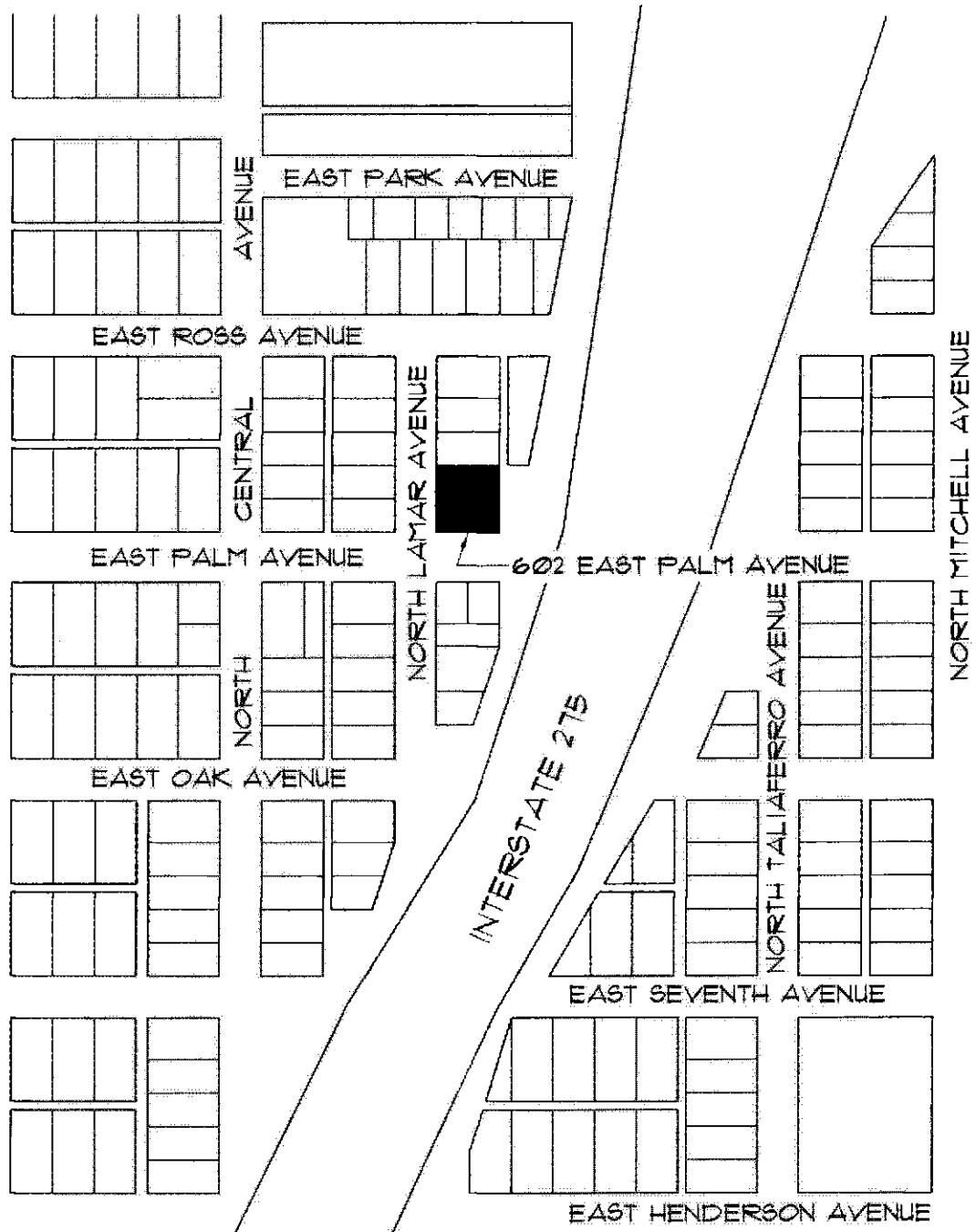
var. yrs. *Tampa City Directory*. R.L. Polk & Co., Richmond, Virginia.

Scott, Harold

2006 Personal communication with Amy Streelman of Janus Research, August 10, 2006.

**Historian:**

Michael Kenneally, Janus Research, December 8, 2006



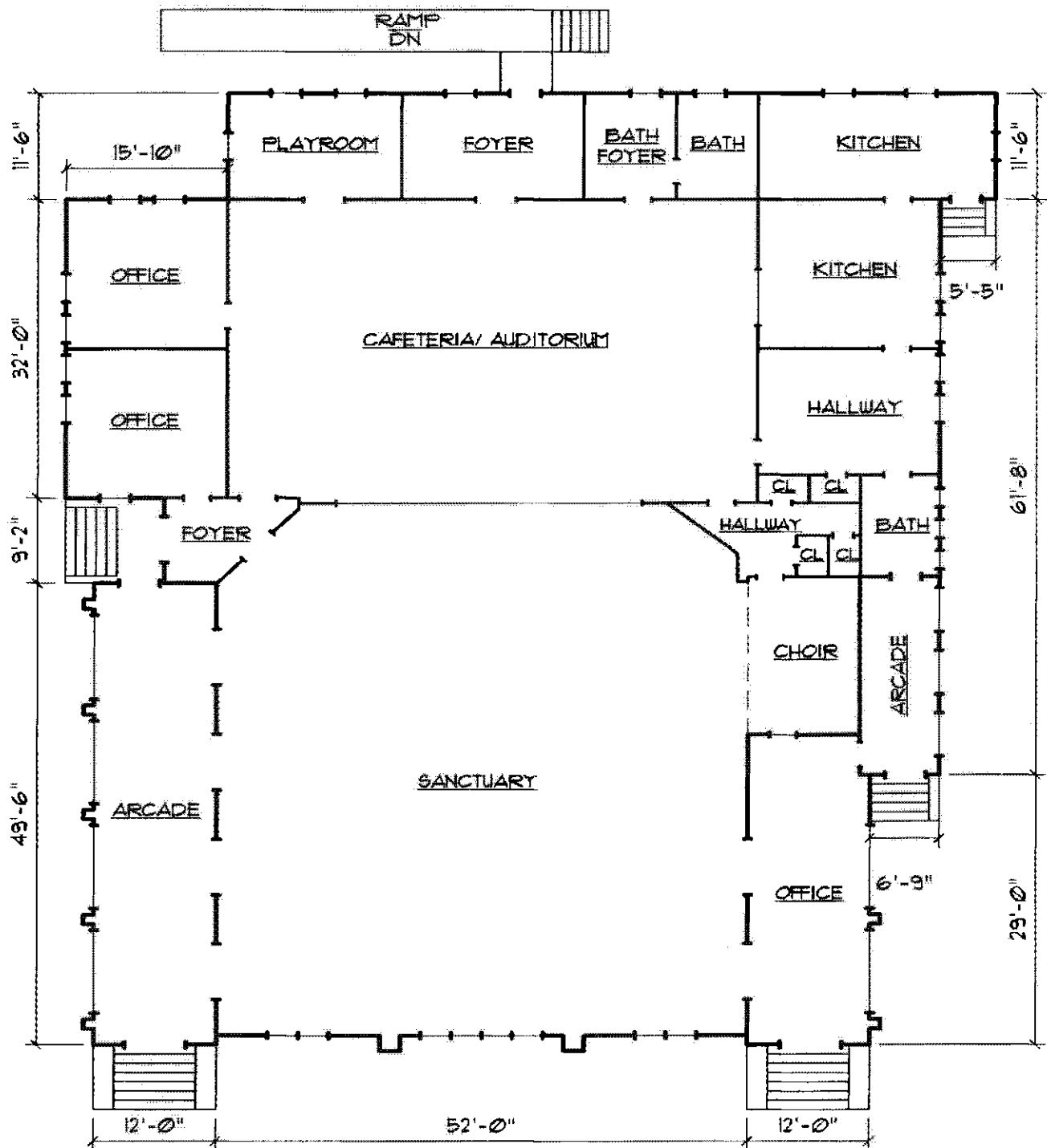
LOCATION MAP

NOT TO SCALE

DATE DRAWN: November 29, 2006  
DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck

602 EAST PALM AVENUE  
TAMPA, FL





**FLOOR PLAN SKETCH**

SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"

DATE DRAWN: November 29, 2006  
DRAWN BY: Jo-Annis Peck

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